



Life Difference Makers

Matthew 1 and Luke 1

A difference maker is one who celebrates their new life in Jesus by bringing His life to others.

- The _____ family is the model for the _____ family.
- Jesus' birth, through an unplanned pregnancy, removes the stigma of choosing life.
- Mary and Joseph modeled the exalted identities of marriage and family.
- God sent his messengers (angels) to give them confidence in an uncertain future.

MY APPLICATION

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends, or small group.

1. What was your favorite thing about your mom? How has your mom's influence shaped your life?
2. As you ponder the unplanned pregnancy of Mary and Joseph, what do you learn about how people may initially respond to the news that they are pregnant when not expecting to be? See Mary's response in Luke 1:26-34 and Joseph's response in Matthew 1:18-19.
3. Jesus had a cloud of "illegitimacy" hanging over his life because of the supernatural circumstances of his birth. See John 8:41b. How can we do a better job of showing compassion on each pregnancy regardless of the circumstances of how it came to be?
4. God sent his angels to assure Mary and Joseph that he would be with them through the uncertainty of giving birth to Jesus and raising him. What might it look like for you to be an angel (difference maker) in the life of someone with an unplanned pregnancy? How can we, as a church, help to promote life?

Memory Verse

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:15-16